

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fixing system for use with a printing apparatus, comprising:
a fixing roller;
at least a first heating zone and a second heating zone defined within the
5 fixing roller; and,
a controller operative to control a flow of heat exchange medium through
the first heating zone and through the second heating zone.
2. The fixing system of claim 1,
comprising at least one supply tube that supplies heat exchange medium
10 to the fixing roller;
the first heating zone comprising at least two first-zone return tubes;
the second heating zone comprising and at least two second-zone return
tubes; and
the controller being operative to select flow through either the first-zone
15 return tubes or the second-zone return tubes.
3. The fixing system of claim 1,
comprising at least one return tube that returns heat exchange medium
from the fixing roller;
the first heating zone comprising at least two first-zone supply tubes;
20 the second heating zone comprising and at least two second-zone supply
tubes; and
the controller being operative to select flow through either the first-zone
supply tubes or the second-zone supply tubes.
4. The fixing system of claim 1, the controller comprising a valve.
- 25 5. The fixing system of claim 1, the controller comprising a pump.
6. The fixing system of claim 1, the controller being operative to control flow
rate of the heat exchange medium proportional to a speed at which receivers are
passed through the fixing system.

7. The fixing system of claim 1, the controller being operative to control a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of receiver passed through the fixing system.

8. The fixing system of claim 1, the controller being operative to control a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of marking material passed through the fixing system.

9. A fixing process for use with a printing apparatus, comprising:
controlling a flow of heat exchange medium through a first heating zone within a fixing roller and a second heating zone within the fixing roller; and,
fixing marking material to a receiver with the fixing roller.

10. The fixing process of claim 9, comprising controlling the flow of heat exchange medium as a function of a width of the receiver.

11. The fixing process of claim 9, comprising controlling the flow of heat exchange medium as a function of a width of the receiver, the first heating zone and second heating zone corresponding to different width receivers.

12. The fixing process of claim 9, comprising controlling flow rate of the heat exchange medium proportional to a speed at which receivers are passed through the fixing system.

13. The fixing process of claim 9, comprising controlling a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of receiver passed through the fixing system.

14. The fixing process of claim 9, comprising controlling a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of marking material passed through the fixing system.

15. A fixing process for use with a printing apparatus, comprising:
fixing marking material to a receiver with a fixing roller;
flowing a heat exchange medium through a first heating zone within the
fixing roller, the first heating zone being biased toward the receiver.
- 5 16. The fixing process of claim 15, comprising:
flowing the heat exchange medium through a second heating zone within
the fixing roller, the second heating zone being biased toward the receiver.
17. The fixing process of claim 16, comprising controlling a flow of heat
exchange medium as a function of a width of the receiver.
- 10 18. The fixing process of claim 16, comprising controlling a flow of heat
exchange medium as a function of a width of the receiver, the first heating zone
and second heating zone corresponding to different width receivers.
- 15 19. The fixing process of claim 15, comprising controlling a flow of the heat
exchange medium proportional to a speed at which receivers are passed through
the fixing system.
20. The fixing process of claim 15, comprising controlling a temperature of the
heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of receiver passed through the
fixing system.
- 20 21. The fixing process of claim 15, comprising controlling a temperature of the
heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of marking material passed
through the fixing system.
22. A fixing system for use with a printing apparatus, comprising:
a fixing roller operative to fix marking material to a receiver; and,
a first heating zone within the fixing roller biased toward the receiver.
- 25 23. The fixing system of claim 22, comprising:
at least a second heating zone within the fixing roller biased toward the receiver.

24. The fixing system of claim 22, comprising:

at least a second heating zone within the fixing roller biased toward the receiver; and

5 a controller operative to control a flow of heat exchange medium through the first heating zone and through the second heating zone.

25. The fixing system of claim 22, comprising a controller operative to control flow rate of the heat exchange medium proportional to a speed at which receivers are passed through the fixing system.

10 26. The fixing system of claim 22, comprising a controller operative to control a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of receiver passed through the fixing system.

27. The fixing system of claim 22, the controller being operative to control a temperature of the heat exchange medium dependent upon a type of marking material passed through the fixing system.

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